

# Simple and Complete Subjects

**1c.** The **simple subject** is the main word or word group that tells *whom* or *what* the sentence is about.

The **complete subject** consists of all the words that tell *whom* or *what* a sentence is about.

**SIMPLE SUBJECT** This **book** on ecology will provide information for my report.

**COMPLETE SUBJECT** **This book on ecology** will provide information for my report.

Sometimes the simple subject and the complete subject are the same.

**EXERCISE A** Decide whether the underlined word or word group is the complete subject or the simple subject. Write CS for *complete subject* or SS for *simple subject*.

**Example** CS 1. The study of wildlife is fascinating and fun.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. This particular course concentrates on endangered species.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. A large variety of plants and animals are endangered.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provides information on endangered animals.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Some animals are threatened by a change in their surroundings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Considered the greatest threat to animals are the activities of human beings.

**EXERCISE B** Underline the complete subject in the following sentences. Then, circle the simple subject.

**Example** 1. The carnivorous Tasmanian devil grows up to thirty-one inches in length.

6. One fascinating nocturnal animal is the aardvark.
7. That strange name always makes me laugh.
8. Another animal with a strange name is the platypus.
9. One of the biggest moths in the world was named for Hercules, a mythological hero.
10. The ant lion captures ants and other insects in its sand traps.
11. The armadillo lives as far north as Texas and as far south as Argentina.
12. Some armadillos may be up to five feet long.
13. The wingspan of the American crow can reach up to three feet.
14. An intelligent bird, the crow can sometimes learn simple words and phrases.
15. Like the parrot, the crow mimics phrases of human speech.